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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Declares November 29, 2019 as “Green Friday”

Declaration Made to Recognize Massachusetts’ Christmas Tree Farms and Nurseries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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HATFIELD — The Baker-Polito Administration has declared Friday, November 29, 2019 as “Green Friday” to encourage people across the Commonwealth to visit their local farms and nurseries for Christmas trees, holiday plants, and holiday decorating needs. To celebrate “Green Friday,” Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux participated in a Christmas tree cutting ceremony at Chestnut Mountain Christmas Tree Farm in Hatfield.

“The period following Thanksgiving is a great opportunity for Massachusetts families to shop local and purchase their Christmas trees and holiday decorations from one of the Commonwealth’s many family-operated farms and nurseries,” **said Governor Charlie**

Baker. “Our administration is proud to recognize this vibrant sector of Massachusetts’ agricultural industry and looks forward another successful season.”

“Our administration is proud to support the Christmas tree growers and nurseries across the Commonwealth that play a vital role in stimulating the local economy and provide our residents with high-quality beautiful trees and plants during the holidays,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.**

Christmas tree season in Massachusetts provides hundreds of seasonal jobs at nearly 270 Christmas tree farms on approximately 2,800 acres of land from Cape Cod to the Berkshires. The sale of over 82,500 Massachusetts-grown Christmas trees contributes approximately \$3.5 million to the Commonwealth’s economy each year. Christmas tree farms, which are often sited on soils that cannot support other crops, stabilize soil, which helps prevent erosion and protect water supplies. When chipped, the trees can be used as a renewable source of energy to be burned as fuel, used as mulch, or composted.

“Green Friday is an annual tradition that recognizes the importance of the Commonwealth’s agricultural industry,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.** “Buying a fresh-cut tree from a local farm helps support Massachusetts’ hard-working farmers and helps to reduce our carbon footprint.”

“As a former long-time Christmas Tree retailer, my participation in the annual Green Friday event brings back many very happy memories,” **said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux.** “Nothing beats the freshness and the fragrance of MassGrown Christmas Trees, and the beauty of all MA produced holiday plants and decorations.”

“Chestnut Mountain is pleased to represent the many Christmas tree farms across the Commonwealth and be this year’s host for the Annual Christmas Tree cutting ceremony to celebrate Green Friday,” **said Bob Schrader, owner of Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm.**

“We’ve been selling trees to the community since 2010 and enjoy offering the public a family experience, as well as hot cider and cookies! We have plenty of gorgeous trees this year all looking for homes.”

Visit the [MassGrown website](https://massnrc.org/farmlocator/map.aspx?Product=Christmas%20Trees)

(<https://massnrc.org/farmlocator/map.aspx?Product=Christmas%20Trees>) to find Christmas tree farms

and nurseries across the state.

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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The Department's mission is to help keep the Massachusetts' food supply safe and secure, and to work to keep Massachusetts agriculture economically and environmentally sound.

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